

July 29, 1994

Dear PM USA Retiree:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is currently considering workplace smoking regulations that, if enacted, would virtually ban smoking at all indoor worksites -- including Philip Morris U.S.A.

Under this proposal, employers would only be able to accommodate smokers if they constructed separate smoking rooms with completely separate ventilation systems. Advocates of these new rules are well aware that most employers cannot afford to provide separately ventilated smoking rooms, and that the proposed rules actually constitute a nationwide workplace smoking ban.

Even more troubling, OSHA's definition of "workplace" is so broad it encompasses almost any indoor location where an employee is present -- including, some would argue, your own home if you employ a plumber to fix your sink.

Other "workplaces" where smoking would be banned include all restaurants, bars, hotel rooms, private offices and company vehicles. Smoking would not even be allowed in a room rented for a private party or function.

Fortunately, there is still an opportunity to comment on the proposed workplace smoking rules. From now until August 13, OSHA will accept public comment on the workplace smoking ban. I am very proud to say that thousands of letters have been generated already by PM USA employees, who are concerned at the potential threat such onerous regulations could have on our business. I am confident that this enthusiasm is shared by our retirees, so many of whom continue to actively support our business. I hope that we can count on you to add your voice to the growing opposition to OSHA's proposal.

To have your comments entered into the official OSHA file on this issue, please follow these three simple steps:

1. Take a few minutes to write a brief letter telling OSHA that designated smoking areas are preferable to the severe restrictions now being considered;
2. Make three copies of your letter (this is to comply with federal law;

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3. Put your original letter, along with the three copies inside one envelope and mail to:

OSHA Docket  
Docket No. H-122  
Room N-2625  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Anti-smokers are already flooding OSHA with their fervent pleas for a complete smoking ban. OSHA officials need to hear from the majority of Americans who favor accommodating both smokers and non-smokers on the job.

Please take a few minutes to write to OSHA with your support for accommodation. Your letter does not have to be long or complicated. You may use the talking points enclosed, but the basic thrust of your letter should be simply that accommodation of smokers and non-smokers is preferable to outright bans or severe restrictions on smoking.

Please write your letter and send it with the three copies as soon as possible. It is vital that OSHA regulators hear from smokers and reasonable non-smokers during the comment period.

Thank you for your continued support and willingness to defend our company.

Sincerely yours,

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